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Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Agenda item 5
Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Submission by the co-facilitators

Draft resolution 25/[ ]: United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014 on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in particular paragraph 28, in which the Assembly noted the governance review process of the Programme, encouraged the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Programme and the Governing Council to continue their consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus at the twenty-fifth session of the Council on how to proceed with the governance review, and underlined that it would consider the report of the Council on that and other issues at its seventieth session,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, which addressed governance reforms of the Programme in order to improve its transparency, accountability and effectiveness,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme while at the same time preserving the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as its permanent intersessional subsidiary organ, in order to make the Programme more visible, capable of effectively mobilizing member States, the United Nations system and various stakeholders, including Habitat Agenda partners, in relation to existing, new and emerging challenges of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, thereby enhancing the authority and legitimacy of its decisions as the global authoritative body and voice on issues of sustainable urbanization and human settlements,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increased quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Recognizing the need for greater oversight of the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. *Decides* to strengthen the oversight role of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives by requesting the Committee to establish a working group on programme and budget, consisting of three representatives of each regional group, to increase oversight of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme during intersessional periods, and in this regard also decides:

(a) That each regional group shall nominate its three representatives for the Working Group, who will serve for a single term between consecutive sessions of the Governing Council;

(b) That the meetings, briefings and deliberations of the Working Group shall be open to observers of all States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, with their views taken into due consideration by the Working Group;

(c) That the Working Group shall meet regularly, and no less than twice a year for three days to make actionable recommendations to the Executive Director and submit periodic reports to the Committee at each of its regular sessions and biennial reports to the Council, through the Committee, on its activities and on the status of implementation by the Executive Director of its recommendations;

2. *Also decides* that the Working Group shall perform the following tasks:

(a) Consider the periodic reports, written briefs and informational notes of the Executive Director on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and make recommendations thereon;

(b) Consider the periodic reports, written briefs and informational notes of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the reports of oversight bodies, including, inter alia, those of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Joint Inspection Unit and the overall internal evaluation function of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and any other reports, such as audits and evaluations, mandated as appropriate, and make recommendations thereon;

(c) Promote the alignment of draft country programme documents and annual implementation plans with the biennial work programme and budget, strategic framework and midterm strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including by giving appropriate guidance thereon;

(d) Review the reports of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resource mobilization strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as well as the Programme's financial status, and make recommendations thereon;

(e) Review the reports of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the communication strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and make recommendations thereon;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the following documents to the Working Group:

(a) Results-based reports on achievements in the implementation of the programme of work and budget and strategic plan, including analysis of the main challenges and proposed remedial actions;

(b) Draft country programme documents and annual implementation plans;

(c) Updates on the implementation of recommendations received following audits and evaluations;

(d) Updates on the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(e) Updates on the implementation of the communication strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(f) Any other reports requested by the Working Group within its mandate;

4 *Also requests* the Executive Director to implement the recommendations and guidance provided by the Working Group on the issues outlined in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to review the implementation of the present resolution at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, at which time a decision on the continuation of the activities of the Working Group shall be taken.